

# TOLSON



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Vitto  
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**YAOI**  **911**

# **TOUGH**

## **Chapter One**

**Written by Alex Woolfson**

**Pencils by Vitto**

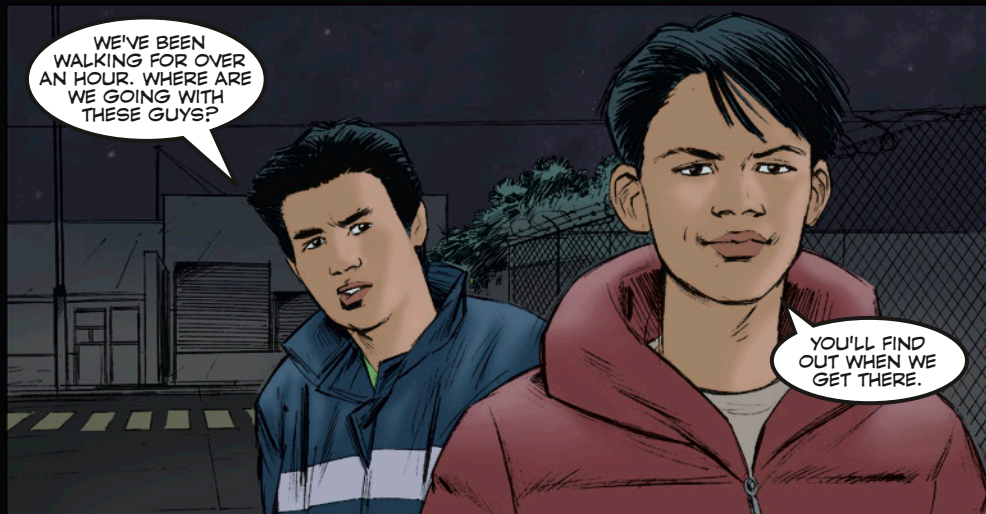
**Colors by Vincent Lee**

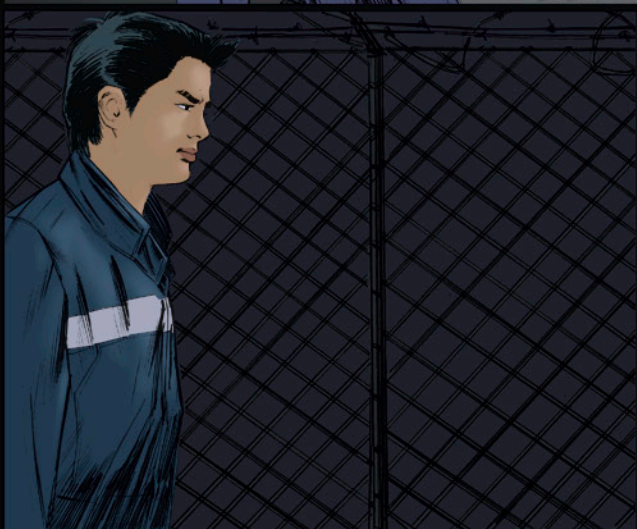
**Cover Painting by Winona Nelson**

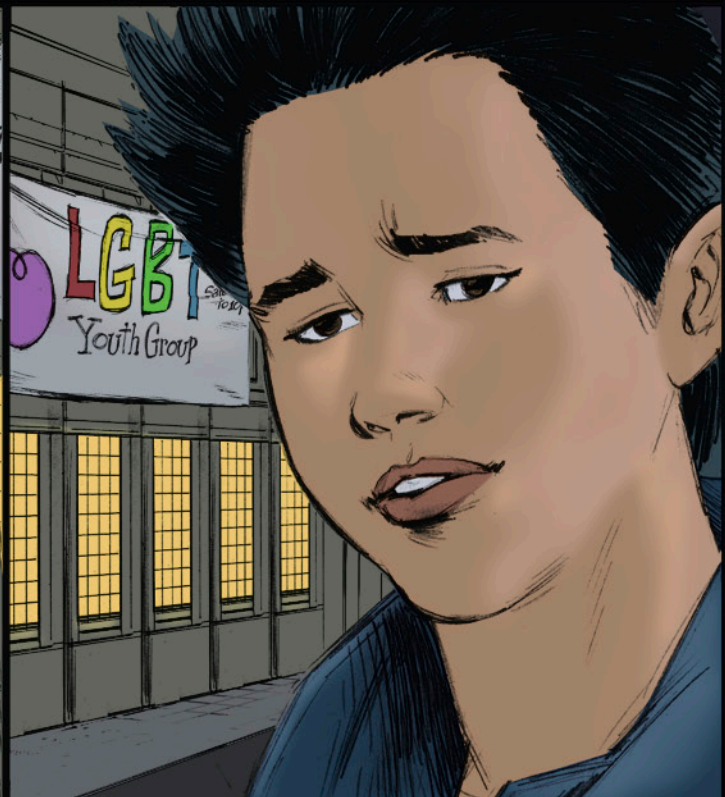
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HEY, JUST BECAUSE I LET YOUR DAD BLOW ME, DOESN'T MAKE ME A HOMO.

I JUST HAPPEN TO LIKE FLORISTS IS ALL.

WHACK

FUCK YOU.



C'MON, BRUCE, HAVING A FLORIST FOR A DAD IS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED ABOUT.



I MEAN, YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT MR. SHEFFIELD DOES WITH POSIES AND BABIES BREATH --

-- TOTAL WORKS OF ART --

-- YOU'D LET HIM TOUCH YOU, TOO.



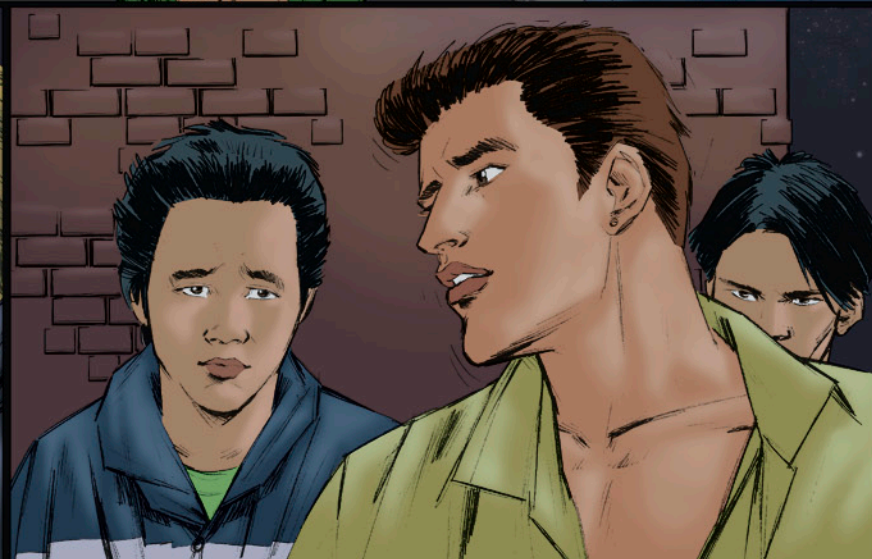
WHAM

OWWW!











WHAT?  
NO ANSWER?

WHY  
SO QUIET?



YOU KEEPING SECRETS  
OR DO YOU JUST NOT KNOW  
*WHY* YOU DECIDED TO  
BECOME A FREAK  
OF NATURE?



MYSELF EXCEPTED,  
OF COURSE. I'M OBVIOUSLY  
ONE UGLY-ASS  
FUCK.



I THINK HE'S  
JUST BEING A BIT  
BASHFUL,  
KEV --

-- Y'KNOW,  
BEING AROUND  
SO MANY *STRONG*,  
*HANDSOME*  
MEN.

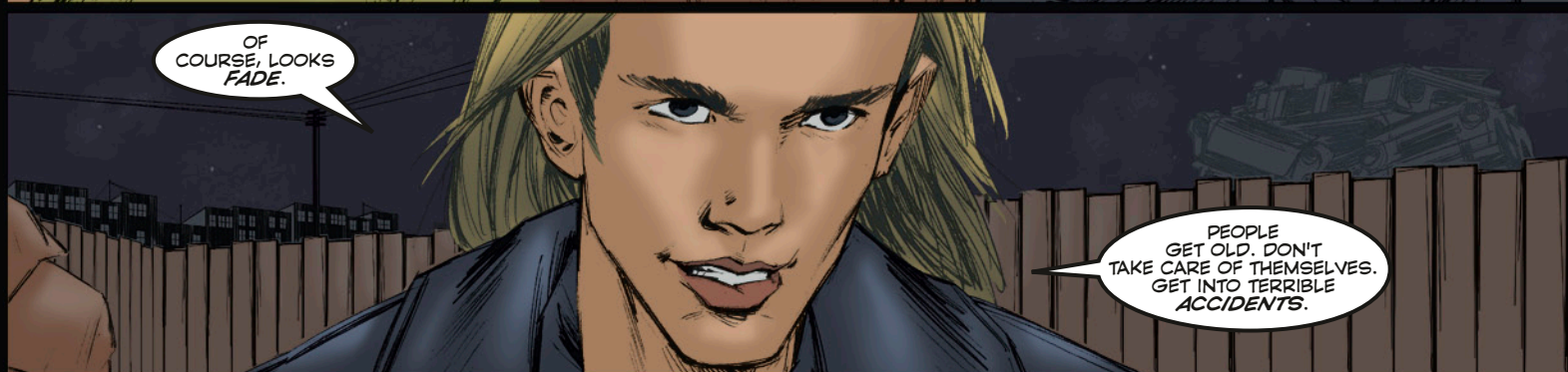
YEAH.  
MAYBE HE  
WANTS...



...MAYBE HE  
WANTS TO  
*SUCK ALL OUR  
DICKS!*



NAH,  
IT'S GOTTA BE  
ALL ABOUT THAT  
PRETTY FACE.







LAR, IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR LITTLE FRIEND IS BEING A LITTLE BITCH.

THINK YOU CAN GET HIM WITH THE PROGRAM SO WE CAN GET ON WITH OUR NIGHT?



YEAH, THIS IS LIKE **TOTALLY** UNPROFESSIONAL.



AND LARRY, YOU **VOUCHED** FOR HIM AND EVERYTHING.



WE'RE ALL **DEEPLY** DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.



YEAH, YEAH! I GOT IT!



FOR FUCK'S SAKE, MIKE, WHAT THE-



NO, LARRY, THIS IS **BULLSHIT!** THEY SAID THEY WERE JUST GOING TO SCARE HIM!



WELL, HE LOOKED PRETTY SCARED TO ME.





WELL, WELL, WELL.  
SEEMS YOUR LITTLE BUDDY'S  
GOT *PRINCIPLES*,  
LAR.

BROUGHT UP  
RIGHT.

*FRIEND*  
TO ALL.



I  
RESPECT  
THAT.



BUT SOMETIMES  
IT'S HARD TO KNOW  
WHAT ONE *REALLY* BELIEVES  
UNTIL IT'S PUT TO THE  
TEST, Y'KNOW?

SOMETIMES  
WHAT *SEEMS* TO BE THE  
RIGHT THING TO DO TURNS OUT  
TO BE THE VERY *WRONG*  
THING TO DO.



SO  
LET ME THROW  
*THIS* LITTLE POP  
QUIZ AT YOU,  
MIKEY --

-- JUST  
TO FIND OUT  
EXACTLY WHERE  
YOU *REALLY*  
STAND.



HIM OR US.  
MAKE YOUR  
CHOICE.



...



GUYS.  
C'MON.  
LET'S JUST DROP  
THIS AND  
GO.

IT  
WAS JUST  
SUPPOSED TO BE A  
LAUGH. THIS IS  
**STUPID.**



NO,  
MIKEY-BOY,  
THIS IS REAL  
LIFE. HIM OR US.  
MAKE YOUR  
CHOICE.



SLIDE



FAGS  
DON'T GET  
BATS.





RIGHT THEN.  
THAT SOUNDS  
TO ME LIKE A  
CHOICE.



WHAT  
DO YOU THINK,  
BRUCE?

I THINK  
HE'S MADE HIS  
CHOICE.



SO...  
MAYBE *TWO*  
LESSONS NEED TO  
BE TAUGHT-



JESUS *CHRIST*  
ON A *CRACKER*,  
YOU GUYS LIKE  
TO *TALK*!







I THINK  
IT'S THREE  
ON TWO  
NOW.

WAY I  
SEE IT, THAT'S  
*ALMOST* A FAIR  
FIGHT.



IS *THAT*  
WHAT YOU BOYS  
WERE LOOKING  
FOR? A FAIR  
FIGHT?



SO...  
YOU THINK IT'S  
THREE ON TWO,  
HUH?



IS THAT RIGHT,  
MIKEY? THAT REALLY  
WHAT THIS IS? THREE  
ON TWO?



WAY I  
HEARD IT -- I WAS  
EITHER WITH *YOU*...  
OR I WAS WITH  
*HIM*.



WELL,  
I SURE AS  
SHIT *AIN'T*  
WITH YOU.



BRUCE!  
HE'S REALLY HURT!  
HIS ARM'S LIKE *BLEEDING*.  
I THINK I CAN SEE  
THE BONE.

WE NEED  
TO GET HIM TO  
AN E.R. OR SOMETHING,  
LIKE *RIGHT*  
*AWAY!*



WELL...  
I GUESS IT'S  
JUST YOUR *LUCKY*  
DAY, FAGGOT.



OH,  
YOU'D BE  
SURPRISED HOW  
OFTEN I GET LUCKY  
WITH LITTLE CLOSET  
CASES LIKE  
YOU.



YOU  
FUCKING SON OF  
A-!



FOR FUCK'S SAKE,  
BRUCE, **LEAVE** HIM!  
LET'S GO!

Uhhhhhh...



ALL RIGHT!  
**FINE!**



AND  
WHOSE SIDE ARE  
YOU ON?



I'M  
WITH YOU  
GUYS!











SO...  
UH... WHAT  
NOW?



I  
DON'T KNOW.



WANT TO  
COME BACK TO MY  
PLACE AND MESS  
AROUND?

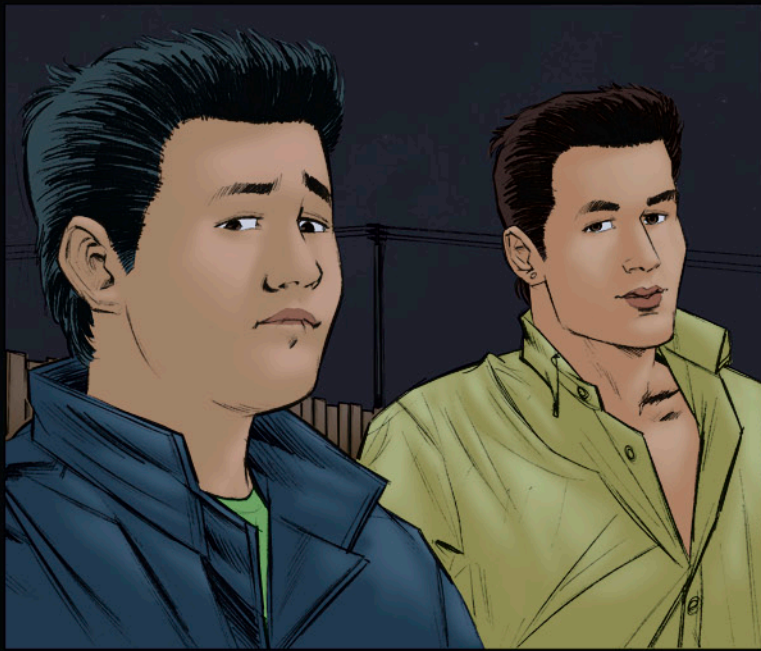


UHHH...  
HEY, WOAH! WHO  
SAID I WAS  
GAY?!

I JUST DIDN'T-  
I JUST WASN'T DOWN  
WITH WHAT THEY WERE  
DOING IS ALL.

BUT THAT  
DOESN'T MEAN I'M GAY  
OR ANYTHING!

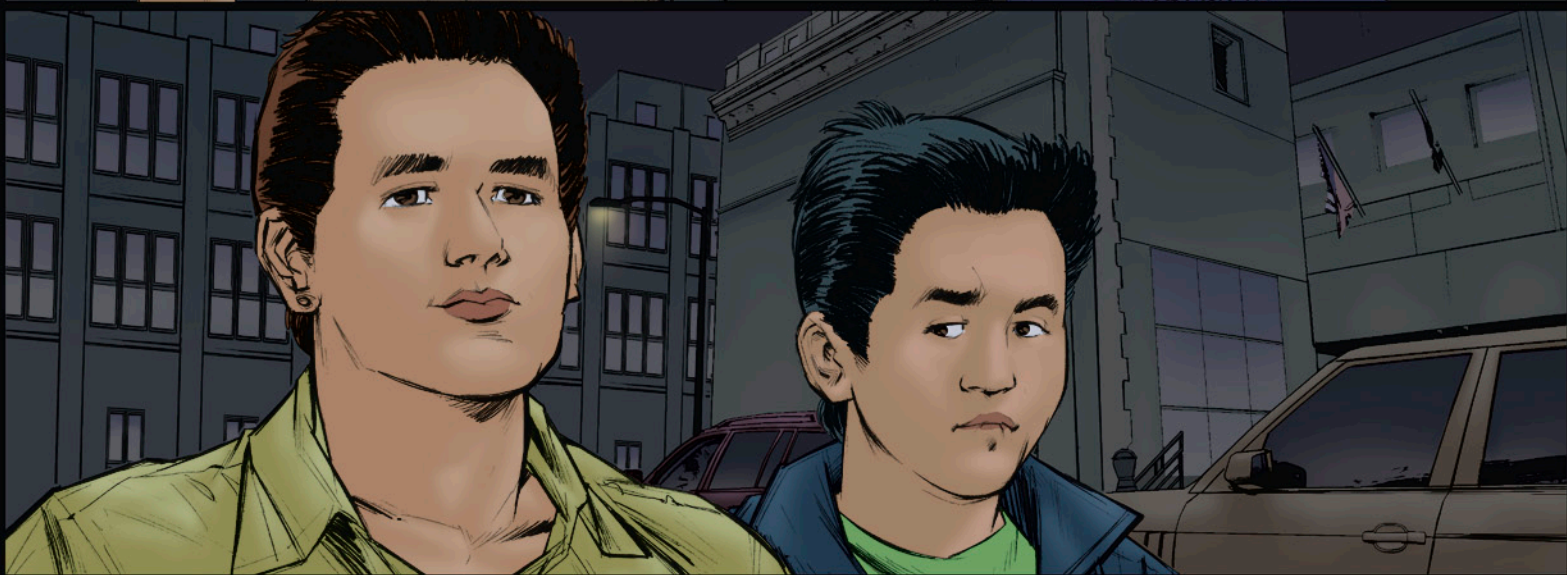
O.K.















## AUTHOR NOTES

When I was a teenager, wrestling with the truth that I liked guys, I longed to see stories of gay action heroes. Not sympathetic victims of bigotry, not brave plague survivors, not funny best friends—*heroes*. Gay boys who could save themselves, save the day *and* get the guy. I still crave those stories. It's why I started the Yaoi 911 project and, out of all the comics we're working on, the *Tough* storyline speaks most directly to that 15-year-old Alex.

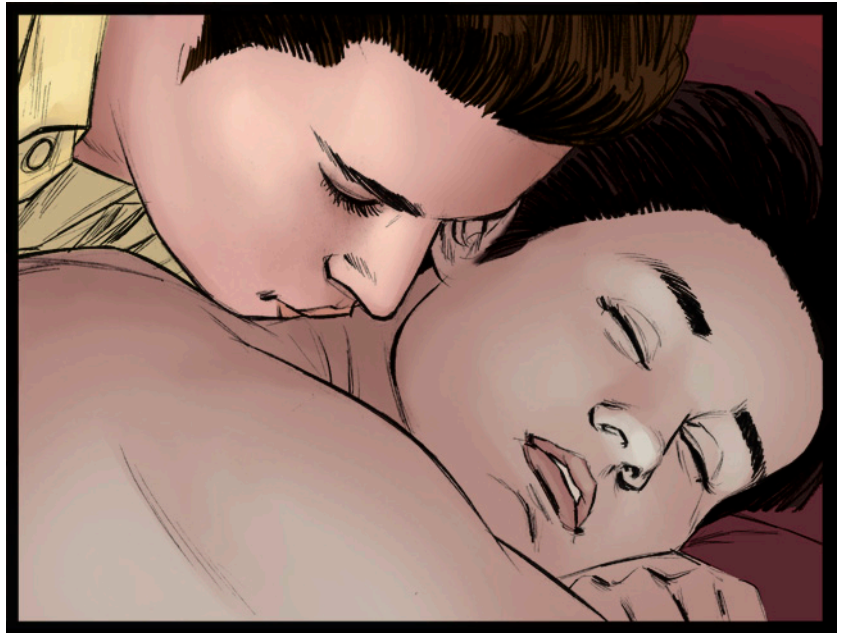
The idea for this first chapter came from a recurring daydream I've had since I was that kid: of a gay guy turning the tables on a gang of fag bashers. Just like in those daydreams, Rob grabs the bat out of the hands of his attacker and then kicks serious ass. In my fantasies, that's me doing the ass-kicking. But this comic adds an additional character who was never part of my fantasy—Mike, a Filipino-American kid, who's faced with the choice of participating in something he knows is wrong or becoming a victim himself. And strangely, it's that new character I identify with the most. It's easy to be heroic when you can wield a bat like Errol Flynn, but the rest of us are faced with hard choices: Do you confront that gay joke and risk being seen as a politically-correct kill-joy? Do you come out at work and risk losing that promotion? Do you dare to tell your parents who you really are and risk losing their love? Do you hold hands with your boyfriend in public and risk getting the crap kicked out of you?

In this case, Mike would say he didn't have any choice at all: there was no way he was going to smash an innocent kid's face with a bat, no matter what it cost him. His bravery and nobility are traits I wish to find in myself. And for me, that's heroism.

My real-life heroes, though, are the artists who put in so many hours to create these pages. *Tough's* penciler, Vitto, drew simply beautiful characters with amazing expressions. (Panel 2 on Page 33 where Mike says "You're funny" is stunningly true-to-life.) Based in Paraguay, he was an absolute joy to work with: he delivered excellent work quickly and completely understood what was needed from my script (despite English being a second language!) Local Bay Area colorist, Vincent Lee, gave just the right look for Vitto's naturalistic style with subtle renderings and great color choices. (And he's a fellow geek—I had a blast dissecting sci-fi/fantasy stories when we met in the local cafés.) And I simply LOVE the painting Winona Nelson came up with for our cover—I couldn't have asked for anything more perfect (and it's hanging right now in my kitchen as a canvas print). I feel very, very lucky and humbled to have found these artists. They inspire me to try to be a much better writer.

## But, dude, where's the sex?!

With a name like Yaoi 911, that's a fair question. I do want *Tough* to touch on great themes like heroism and sacrifice, but a lot of it *is* about the love. And I promise, you won't have to wait long to enjoy it! Chapter Two is already finished and I'll be sending that out to [Yaoi 911 News & Downloads subscribers](#) on May 1, 2010. Sure, it's called "No Kissing" but it takes places in Rob's bedroom and you *know* how we writers like to be all ironical and stuff. If you're looking for romance, you won't be disappointed.



## Want more? Support us!

This is going to be a great year for Yaoi 911. Chapter One of *Tough* is finished. Chapter Two will be sent out in May. And it looks like our first full graphic novel, the 90-page sci-fi romance *Artifice*, will be done by the fall. If you like the kind of work we're creating, then please support us by letting others know about our comics and by purchasing some of our merchandise. Even just a couple dollars makes a *huge* difference—and you get cool things sent to you!

I'm offering PDFs of my [comic scripts](#) at [The Yaoi 911 Store](#) for \$1.99 each. You can [get a high-end print of Winona's beautiful cover art](#) for as little as \$19.98 (with or [without the scary bat shadows](#) in the background. Trust me, it will look just awesome in your bedroom.) [Greeting cards](#) are just \$4.99 and look great on your refrigerator. Finally, you can get official Yaoi 911 [T-shirts](#), [magnets](#) and even [postage stamps](#) (Hi, Grandma!) over at our [Zazzle store](#). (Wear our T-shirts and soon everyone will be looking for your help with "all their Yaoi emergencies"!)

And if you have a blog or [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) account, please let everyone know about our work and send them to our [Free Comics](#) page! That's a great way to help us too!

## Thank you very much for reading!

I hope you enjoyed this first chapter of *Tough*. Even though it's a story I've always wanted to see, making these comics is really all about you. If our work has made you smile even once, then it's all worth it. [Please let me know what you thought!](#) *Nothing* matters more than hearing back from our readers.

And if you did like this comic, let me tell you, the best is yet to come! Two new stories, lots of action, lots of kissing, lots of good, sexy fun—all in the next 12 months. I'm really proud of the comics we're finishing now. I think you're going to love what we send you next!

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